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June 28, 1985

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New Hampshire Yankee Division

Senator Nicholas J. Costello  
Massachusetts Senate  
Room 217  
State House  
Boston, MA 02133

OFFICE OF SECRETARY  
DOCKETING & SERVICE  
BRANCH

Dear Senator Costello:

It is unfortunate that you did not ask us about the concerns expressed in your letter to the chairman of the NRC and the Governor of Massachusetts. If you had done so, you would have received a prompt, factual reply which might have addressed your concerns.

While you are probably already aware of the following facts, they are worth repeating here.

With respect to the indictment of Mr. James Padavano, a former welding inspector employed by a sub-contractor at the site, you should be aware that the federal charges of falsifying weld examination reports were the direct result of Seabrook's quality assurance program. In April, 1983, the quality assurance program in place at Seabrook detected inconsistencies in reports filed by Mr. Padavano.

Seabrook Station management immediately notified the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Separate investigations by the NRC and Seabrook Station management confirmed our initial suspicions that this individual had been filing false reports. The investigation also verified that the situation was isolated to one individual. He was terminated immediately.

We began an exhaustive re-examination of the work with which this inspector had been associated, some 2,400 items, to assure that Mr. Padavano's actions would not compromise the safe and reliable operation of the Seabrook Station. As a result of that program, any and all deficiencies which might have affected plant safety have been resolved. In addition to the actions and re-examinations taken by the Seabrook Station management, the NRC performed an independent examination which resulted in a confirmatory statement that all areas inspected met licensing commitments and regulatory requirements.

However, falsifying this type of record is a federal offense. Seabrook project personnel cooperated fully with the investigations both of the NRC Office of Investigations and the subsequent criminal investigation carried out by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. In addition, Seabrook's counsel responsible for NRC matters worked closely with the United States Attorney's office to arrange for expeditious production of all requested project documents for use in the Grand Jury proceedings which resulted in the indictment.

The facts in this case are indisputable. This problem was brought to light solely as a result of the thoroughness of the project's quality assurance program.

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P.O. Box 300 • Seabrook, NH 03874 • Telephone (603) 474-9521

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7/11...To EDO for Appropriate Action...Docket, Cmr, SECY-  
...cc: Palladino...85-554.

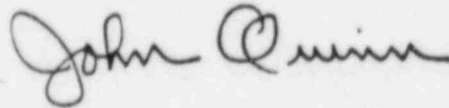
Your letter also cited, as support for the claim, a time study done for a segment of Seabrook's Emergency Planning Zone and referenced in a letter of inquiry from the Radiological Response Plan Advisory Committee in Amesbury to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Your letter refers to possible "discrepancies" in the study. A response to that Committee's concerns is being prepared and we will be happy to see to it that a copy of this response is forwarded to your office.

At the risk of oversimplification, suffice it to say that information received from local officials who reviewed the 1983 draft indicated that the summer transient populations assumed in that draft for certain areas may have been low. Further investigation identified a higher "persons per vehicle" number for the portion of the population that was at the beaches. As a result, the population estimate was revised upward.

This had no impact upon the summer evacuation time estimates because these are dependent upon the number of vehicles and their movement in the area for which a finite number exists based upon the conservative assumption that the number is at a capacity peak. Capacity peak assumes a vehicle in every available parking space plus an allowance for illegally parked vehicles.

If, in the future, you have any other questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



John E. Quinn  
Director of Emergency Planning

JEQ/et

cc: Nunzio Palladino, Chairman, NRC ✓  
Governor Michael S. Dukakis  
Senator Edward M. Kennedy  
Senator John F. Kerry  
Congressman Nicholas Mavroulas  
William Lord, Amesbury RERP Advisory Comm.